

individuals are seen with the underparts a mixture of light grey and light rufous.

The following observations made in a Kampala garden, relate to successful breeding between a male *T. viridis ferreti* and a female *T. rufiventer emini*: Male bird: fairly rich rufous above with darker flight feathers. Head black with a slight crest, and a blue eye ring. Tail rufous, and with only slightly elongated central feathers. Underparts grey, under tail coverts pale rufous.

Female bird: Above as in the male. Tail not elongated. Below very pale rufous including the belly and under tail coverts.

The pair was observed building (only the female was actually observed building) and copulating between 5.6.81 and 10.6.81. On 10.6.81 the female was observed sitting, which she continued to do intermittently. The male was first observed sitting on 14.6.81 and the pair continued to share the incubation until 23.6.81. Unfortunately at that point I had to go on leave. But a subsequent observer informed me that the nest was blown down in a storm in early July, and one partly fledged chick was found dead at the foot of the tree.

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A RECORD OF BAR-BREASTED FIREFINCH *LAGONOSTICTA RUFOPICTA NITIDULA* FROM TANZANIA

At 10.00 hours on 27 June 1982 I was tape-recording bird calls at the bridge crossing the Kalambo River in extreme SW Tanzania (08°16'S, 31°19'E). While walking along by the thick riverside vegetation I heard an unfamiliar twittering call coming from a clump of bushes. I recorded the call and then moved closer to investigate its source. I approached to within 10 m before I saw three small birds sitting close to each other on a branch making the call. I recognised them as firefinches but not of a species with which I was familiar. After watching them for about 10 minutes through x10 binoculars, they flew down to a puddle 5 m away made by a small spring flowing into the river. All three birds drank and then bathed for the next 5 minutes. During this time I had excellent views of them from all angles and concluded that they were Bar-breasted Firefinches *Lagonosticta rufopicta*. There was an adult male and female while the third bird was an immature. The male was brownish grey on the lower chest fading to light greyish buff on the belly. There was a pinkish wash on the upper chest and throat with scattered white spots. The back, rump and tail were warm brown on all three birds. After the birds finished bathing they flew off into the undergrowth. I stayed in the vicinity the rest of the day but other than hearing the distinctive twittering call a few more times, I did not see the birds again.

The possibility of confusion with similar species occurring in the area was excluded on the following basis. The Red-billed Firefinch, *L. senegala*, occurs in drier situations and has a reddish rump in both sexes; the birds I saw had brown rumps. There was more white spotting on the chest of the male than there is in the male of *L. senegala*. The African Firefinch, *L. rubricata*, which could occur in the same habitat as *nitidula*, is darker brown above and both sexes have red rumps and black tails. I am familiar

with *L. senegala* and *L. rubricata* and saw both species that day. Their calls are quite distinctive and not very similar to the call I recorded.

Some authors, Benson *et al.* (1971), consider the southern race of *L. rufopicta* to be a separate species, *L. nitidula*. Britton (1980) includes *L. nitidula* as a race of *L. rufopicta* and speculates that it might occur in extreme SW Tanzania.

I believe that this is the first reported occurrence of *L. rufopicta* from Tanzania and the first record of the race *nitidula* from East Africa.

REFERENCES

WHITE, C.M.N. 1963. A revised check list of African flycatchers etc. Lusaka: Government Printer.

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NOTICE

RAPTOR RESEARCH FOUNDATION CONFERENCE-NOVEMBER 1985 ANNOUNCEMENT AND FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

The 1985 Raptor Research Foundation (RRF) International Meeting and Symposium on the Management of Birds of Prey will be held at the Capitol Plaza Holiday Inn in Sacramento, California, November 2-20 1985. Highlights of the meeting will include: 1) The Second RRF Conference on Raptor Conservation Techniques - Twelve Years of Progress, 1973-1985; 2) a Western Hemisphere Meeting of the World Working Group on Birds of Prey (ICBP); 3) the Second International Vulture Symposium; 4) a Western North America Osprey Symposium; 5) a Workshop on North American Candidate Endangered Raptors; 6) an International Symposium on Raptor Reintroduction; and 7) a Symposium on Raptor Rehabilitation, Captive Breeding, and Public Education. For more information or if you are interested in presenting a paper, please contact Dr. Richard Olendorff, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825, or Nancy Venizelos, San Francisco Zoological Society, Sloat Blvd. at the Pacific Ocean, San Francisco, California 94132.